

Final Record of the Proceedings

Co-Chairs: Samia Zekaria, Ethiopia &
Brian Atwood, OECD Development Assistance Committee

1. From 27–29 April 2011, PARIS21 held its Annual Meetings in Paris. A first session of the Board was held on the afternoon of 27 April. The following morning, PARIS21 held a seminar on the use of and access to data, followed by the second session of the Board in the afternoon. Finally, on the morning of 29 April, PARIS21 held a Meeting of Statistical Capacity Development Donors. All documents, presentations, and records from each session are available for download on the PARIS21 website (<http://www.paris21.org/PARIS21annualmeetings2011>).

I. Welcome Statement

2. The developing country co-chair, Samia Zekaria of Ethiopia, opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing the new co-chair: Brian Atwood, chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Mr. Atwood expressed his pleasure in joining the PARIS21 community and in helping to facilitate the PARIS21 Board meetings. He mentioned the important role PARIS21 plays in ensuring that developing countries are properly resourced to provide the data needed to manage for development results and measure development effectiveness. This contribution is particularly relevant in the context of the upcoming High Level Forum in Busan.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without modification.

III. Report on Executive Committee Discussions

4. The representative from the International Monetary Fund presented a report on Executive Committee discussions since the June 2010 Board meeting, on behalf of the Committee's chairperson who was unable to attend the day's proceedings. The Executive Committee has met four times over the past year: in October 2010 then in January, February, and March 2011. The first order of business of the Committee was to elect its chair. Since the Board is itself co-chaired by a representative from developing countries (Ethiopia) and bilateral donors (DAC chair), the Committee agreed that a multilateral should be the first to chair the Executive Committee. As the representative from the World Bank, Mrs. Shaida Badiie was elected. As per the governance arrangements, her mandate will last one year from the date of her election, which was in October 2010.

5. Other Executive Committee discussions have considered: Board membership, communication between PARIS21 Board Members and their communities, the work of the Task Team on Logical Framework Indicators, PARIS21 Involvement at the Fourth High Level Forum on

Aid Effectiveness in Busan, the state of play on funding pledges to the PARIS21 Secretariat, and the agenda of this year's annual meetings. The Committee considered and helped develop proposals on all of these items, which will be presented for Board approval over the course of the present meeting.

IV. Final Composition of the PARIS21 Board / Communication between Board Members and Communities

6. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager noted that there had been a few last-minute changes in the composition of the Board, as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation just recently accepted PARIS21's offer of membership. He presented his apologies for omitting Australia in the first version of the table, insisted on the fact that a balance had to be kept between representatives of the developing world (countries, regional development banks, regional institutions) and donor organisations (bilaterals, multilaterals), and pointed out that there are still a few vacancies to be filled. The Secretariat also proposed to replace the term "constituencies" by "communities" in our governance language, the latter better reflecting the spirit of the PARIS21 partnership. He reminded Board members of the importance of reporting back to their communities, of advocating for a higher profile and increased resources for statistics, and of supporting PARIS21 initiatives. He then proposed some modalities on formalising the relationship between the Board and the Executive Committee, including sharing agendas and minutes of the Executive Committee meetings with the Board.

Discussion

7. Representatives from Canada and Germany both formally requested membership on the Board, which was warmly accepted. The representative from Italy indicated that its current Board member will be replaced and that this change will be followed up bilaterally with the PARIS21 Secretariat. Despite the rule in the governance arrangements that developing country Board membership be equally balanced between data producers and users, the representative from the Middle East requested that her region's alternate also be a director from a statistical office rather than a user. She argued that this region is in a unique situation and that co-operation was easier between statistical offices. The chair commented that, in light of the fact that the region is rapidly evolving, the Board ought to remain flexible with this particular seat. The observer from Oxford Policy Management asked when and how the member representing all the individual members of the Partnership would be selected. The Secretariat Manager responded that discussion on this point had been postponed as there was limited time and capacity to run this process fairly. For the moment, the seat would correspond to foundations and the private sector, until a solution is found for the individual representative. The chair concluded that there remained a few open-ended questions on Board composition and that the Board therefore requested that its composition be considered "proposed" until it can be formally finalised.

8. Participants welcomed the proposals for reinforcing communication between the Board and Executive Committee, in particular the sharing of agendas and minutes of Committee meetings. Some members cautioned that access to draft versions of such materials should remain restricted via a secure online environment before a decision is made by the Executive Committee to post them publicly to the PARIS21 website. The chair concluded that there was a consensus on the proposed communication between the Board and Executive Committee.

V. Monitoring the Partnership's Progress: The PARIS21 Logical Framework

9. The representative from the United Kingdom presented the work of the task team on logical framework (logframe) indicators. This inter-agency team has defined output-level indicators for both the Partnership and the Secretariat (only in Part 1), measured baselines, and proposed milestones and targets. The team proposes that progress against these indicators be presented at the 2013 Board meeting (on milestones) then again at the 2014 Consortium meeting (final targets). She commented that all members of the Partnership must contribute not only to implementing their common goals but also to providing data to monitor progress in the logframe. Although some indicators still require work (e.g., indicator G2 on the use of statistics in policy making process), the team felt that the logframe was now in a form suitable for Board endorsement.

Discussion

10. The Board congratulated the task team on the difficult work of defining indicators in the logframe. Participants provided comments on several aspects that are missing or under-developed (e.g., NSDS implementation, cost effectiveness, dissemination of data, independence of statistics). The Board recognised that these aspects would be very challenging to measure: for example, NSDS implementation must be a country-owned process and no good measure of cost effectiveness currently exists. The Board therefore approved both Parts I and II (recognising that the latter is still in draft form) in order to allow the work of measurement to move forward. It was further agreed that the other aspects could be integrated at a later time as the logframe is implemented. The Board also agreed to the proposed schedule of reporting on the logframe.

VI. PARIS21 Involvement at the HLF-4 in Busan

11. The Director of the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate (the directorate that hosts the PARIS21 Secretariat) presented an overview of the Busan High Level Forum, stressing that the conference was part of a broader process aimed at paving the way towards a global consensus on improving the quality of development co-operation. He noted that it was becoming increasingly clear that the discussions at Busan had to be underpinned by evidence and that the role of evidence in development would also be a key topic. Both aspects were important for PARIS21. In particular, PARIS21's work is closely linked with the ongoing conversation about measuring development effectiveness: donor governments have a need to demonstrate to their taxpayers that development co-operation is working; developing country governments need also to demonstrate progress to their citizens. Statistics are needed for this, and it would be a great pity if the agenda was driven solely by the donors. It would be far better for each developing country to develop its own statistical systems to measure its progress, so long as those systems are robust enough to produce the sort of solid evidence donors have a right to request. That challenge of capacity development will be a part of Busan and will provide an opportunity to both reinforce the message of the work of PARIS21 and learn from the PARIS21 experience. He commented that the Busan agenda is not yet finalised and that the outcome document is being developed. The Secretariat Manager then mentioned some of the specific proposals for Busan that had been suggested so far to highlight statistical capacity development issues, including a report on progress in implementing the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics (DDDS) and a possible *Busan Action Plan for Statistics* (as a follow up to the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics from 2004). The DAC chair added that it was vital that Busan include voices from new donors and from the developing world to forge a broader and deeper partnership. PARIS21 has an important

role in demonstrating that it is indeed credible for developing countries to take over the ownership of reporting the results.

Discussion

12. Board members affirmed the importance of PARIS21 playing a strong role in Busan. They called on the Partnership to pay special attention to preparing its interventions carefully and recommended that PARIS21 think ambitiously about the event and try to suggest concrete proposals that would engage policy makers and focus on countries measuring their own progress and engaging with the transparency agenda. The Secretariat proposed to put in place a procedure for the Board to consider and comment on draft versions of the Dakar Declaration monitoring report and the proposed Busan Action Plan for Statistics. The OECD concluded the discussion by thanking the Board for its comments and noting the need to be ambitious and to aim at convincing politicians of the importance of statistics, probably through leveraging the results and transparency agendas.

VII. Annual PARIS21 Progress Report – 2010 / Secretariat Programme of Work & Budget – 2011

13. The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the 2010 progress report along the CANK structure (Co-ordination, Advocacy, NSDS, and Knowledge: ADP/IHSN) as well as the Secretariat's financial situation. Among the highlights of PARIS21 work in 2010 are the following: the 2010 Round of the PRESS initiative was conducted and its results disseminated, advocacy support lent to 22 countries or regional entities, NSDS support lent to 35 countries or regional entities (16 new processes) of which 50% were fragile states, 16 joint missions conducted (including in three pilot countries to facilitate a better integration of agricultural statistics into NSDSs), various IHSN tools and guidelines developed to foster data use, and ADP support to Task 1 expanded to 55 countries and 12 through ECLAC. The financial report 2010 showed that, compared with 2009, there was a decrease in the expenditures for the core programme. The level of expenditures for ADP/IHSN was maintained in 2010. The Secretariat received 1.5 M Euros for the Core Program in 2010 from Finland, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the UK. The presentation also showed the evolution of income and expenditure from 2006 to 2010.

14. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager then presented the revised budget for 2011–14, the proposed work programme for 2011, and the financial situation of the Secretariat. The revised budget 2011–14 showed that the budget and programme of activities have been reduced, taking into account the need to better align Secretariat activities with the new structure of the work programme and reflecting the reprioritisation of activities as approved by the Executive Committee. The proposed work programme for 2011 includes global and country level **co-ordination** activities (2011 PRESS round, CRESS pilots, reporting on DDDS, updating the NSDS guidelines); the production of country **advocacy** materials and global interventions to enhance the status of statistics in major international initiatives (ISI, Busan HLF-4); and assisting countries and regions in producing and implementing better-quality **NSDSs** and **RSDSs**. As far as **ADP** and **IHSN** are concerned, improved or new tools and methodologies will stimulate even further demand for better and better use of statistics. An independent evaluation of ADP and IHSN will also be commissioned. The financial situation shows some encouraging tendencies for 2011; nevertheless, the Secretariat Manager insisted on the need to have sufficient funds in order to be able to carry out activities in 2012.

Discussion

15. Participants congratulated the Secretariat on 2010 progress and welcomed the general orientations for 2011 work. The representative from South Africa recommended adding health to agriculture and education among PARIS21's target sectors. Demand for health data is increasing, with ministers responsible for civil registration taking serious positions on the health agenda. The DAC chair made reference to a mapping exercise of the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate on aid flows to the health sector that will soon be carried out. He said it would be useful to take the results of this exercise into account before engaging PARIS21 work in the health sector. Participants also called on the Secretariat to include expected flows in its presentation of the financial situation, in order to offer a more programmatic view and help decision-making. The chair invited PARIS21 to show more predictability, to which the Secretariat responded by showing a slide with a long-term vision of flows. The representative of Eurostat encouraged the Secretariat to consider discussing with the OECD financial services the possibility of providing more details on expenditures in its financial reporting to increase transparency so that donors have enough information to report to their constituencies and governing boards. The representative from France encouraged the use of administrative sources in producing official statistics, arguing that it would be more useful to establish an administrative system rather than carry out specific surveys. He called on the Partnership to reflect on this issue and integrate it into the PARIS21 work programme. He also urged the members of the Partnership to apply PARIS21 principles in developing countries. The NSDS was a concrete tool around which donors and countries can coordinate support to statistics. The chair reminded participants that there was a meeting of the Working Party on Aid-Effectiveness on the "Global Partnership on Country Systems" planned next month in Manila and that PARIS21 could be a key contributor to its proceedings.

VIII. Reporting on Support to Statistics

16. The PARIS21 Secretariat delivered a presentation on reporting on support to statistics that covered the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) and the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS). The first part of the presentation covered results and lessons from the 2010 PRESS round, demonstrating the issues that the PRESS is able to bring to light. Despite the recent financial crisis, figures from the PRESS suggest that global estimated commitments to statistical development have actually increased over the past three PRESS rounds. However, looking more closely at the numbers over the 2010 PRESS round, the individual years of this three-year cycle have seen a sharp decline in commitments. Furthermore the share of aid to statistics relative to total ODA has declined. In the period 2006–08, the share was 0.23% and in 2007–09 it had decreased to 0.19%. PRESS figures also show that aid to statistics is highly concentrated in a small number of aid darlings. Commitments to the top 15 countries combined to equal 45% of total estimated commitments worldwide. Applying a methodology developed by the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate on aid fragmentation, PRESS figures reveal that 37.5% of aid relationships among the top 15 recipients were "non-significant". These relationships represented only 4.0% of aid to statistics to these countries. In terms of alignment with NSDSs, the PRESS data suggest that a little less than a third of aid to statistics is aligned with nationally owned strategies.

17. Based on feedback from PRESS reporters, the Secretariat has resolved a number of technical issues related to the online questionnaire in order to strengthen the user-friendliness of the interface. In addition, in Q1 2011, PARIS21 and ESCAP conducted a joint assessment of the PRESS and produced a number of recommendations for fine-tuning the system. These recommendations

are currently being integrated into the system and will be included in the 2011 Round once launched in the coming weeks.

18. In the second half of the presentation, the Secretariat presented its efforts in capturing allocations to statistics in countries. Based on the PRESS experience conducted at the international level, PARIS21 has launched a pilot exercise named CRESS (Country Report on Support to Statistics) at the country level. The CRESS is a country-led exercise to gather all data relating to the funding of the entire NSS whether deriving from national resources or donor support. The ultimate objective of the CRESS is to improve efficiency of the NSS through better co-ordination and better information sharing. The Secretariat announced that CRESS pilot exercises have been launched in three countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Malawi) in addition to guidance being provided to Senegal on the donor support component within a full public expenditure review on statistics supported by the World Bank.

Discussion

19. The chair commented that in her country (Ethiopia) the CRESS exercise has been warmly welcomed as they recognise the importance of the information collected by this tool to help co-ordinate the whole NSS. Ethiopia plans to launch their CRESS in September. Participants recognised the importance and usefulness of this type of reporting and were inspired by it to consider precisely how the components of an NSS interact. However, they underscored several difficulties in implementing the CRESS. Even in countries that have effective management systems and a statistical law that outlines clearly the role of each NSS stakeholder, there often exist great difficulties in co-ordination. Nevertheless, participants recognised that the Partnership should rise to the challenge of the CRESS.

IX. Overview of Decisions Taken

20. The Secretariat Manager reviewed the decisions taken by the Board over the course of the meeting’s proceedings. An overview is available in the table below.

Overview of Decisions Taken

#	Decision for the PARIS21 Board
1	<p>Does the Board agree to its composition?</p> <p><i>The Board requested that its composition be considered “proposed” rather than “final.” It was further agreed that – in light of the evolving and unique situation in the Middle East -- the region’s member and alternate seats on the Board will both be heads of statistical offices.</i></p>
2	<p>Does the Board agree to the proposed modalities for communication between Board Members and their communities?</p> <p><i>The Board endorsed the proposals outlined in the paper and agreed to implement them.</i></p> <p>Does the Board agree to the proposed means of reporting between the Executive Committee and</p>

#	Decision for the PARIS21 Board
	<p>the Board?</p> <p><i>The Board agreed to the proposals outlined in the paper and in particular encouraged the Executive Committee to share its agendas and minutes with the Board. Where Executive Committee deliberations are sensitive or still provisional, they will be shared with the Board via a secure environment before a decision is made by the Executive Committee to post them to the PARIS21 website.</i></p>
3	<p>Does the Board agree to the content of the PARIS21 Logical Framework, including the proposed milestones and targets?</p> <p><i>The Board congratulated the task team on the difficult work of defining indicators in the logframe. The Board provided comments on several aspects to be measured that are missing or under-developed (e.g., NSDS implementation, cost effectiveness, dissemination of data, independence of statistics) but approved both Parts I and II (recognising that the latter is still in draft form) in order to allow the work of measurement to move forward. It was further agreed that the other aspects could be integrated at a later time as the logframe is implemented. The Board also agreed to the proposed schedule of reporting on the logframe.</i></p>
4	<p>Does the Board agree to the proposed involvement of the Partnership at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan?</p> <p><i>The Board recognised the importance of the HLF-4 for promoting statistics and statistical development and welcomed the proposals for PARIS21 involvement in Busan. The Board recommended that PARIS21 be ambitious and highlight developing country experiences at the event. The Secretariat will put in place a procedure for the Board to consider and comment on draft versions of the DDDS monitoring report and the proposed Busan Action Plan for Statistics.</i></p>
5	<p>Does the Board agree to the Secretariat's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 2011?</p> <p><i>The Board agreed to the Secretariat's proposed programme of work and budget for 2011.</i></p>
6	<p>Does the Board agree to organise the next session of the PARIS21 Annual Meetings from 28 to 30 March 2012 in Paris?</p> <p><i>The Board agreed to the proposed dates.</i></p>